State of California—Health and Human Services Agency

Department of Health-Services



GRAY DAVIS
Governor

Letter No.: 02 - 41



July 18, 2002

TO: All County Welfare Directors

All County Administrative Officers

All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons

All County Mental Health Directors

All County Health Executives All County MEDS Liaisons All County Information Officers

THE REMOVAL OF STATE LEASED MEDS CONTROLLERS, DATA CIRCUITS, TERMINALS, AND PRINTERS

Ref.: All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) No. 02-09

This ACWDL is in follow-up to ACWDL No. 02-09 announcing the Department of Health Services (Department) decision to terminate all the lease agreements on the Memorex 3270 display stations and printers located in county offices when they expire. The last expiration date is January 2005. However, most equipment will be gradually removed on a staggered basis from county offices throughout the next year, or two, depending on the dates of expiration. Three enclosures are included with this letter that will aid counties in facilitating this equipment removal process and assist in alleviating some of the apprehension over preparing county sites, obtaining county support, maintaining a backup system, replacing hardware and software, and accommodating printer demands.

We acknowledge and can appreciate the fiscal impact this Department decision has had on the smaller counties. Our intent is to be as flexible as possible to allow everyone the time to develop and implement alternative solutions before the leased equipment is removed. To assist with this transition, staff from the Interim Statewide Automated Welfare System (ISAWS) Consortium, California Department of Social Services, Adult Program's Branch (APB), and Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch (MEB) met on several occasions to consider possible business and technical solutions that would help during this equipment changeover.



Do your part to help California save energy. To learn more about saving energy, visit the following web site: www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html

Data Infrastructures

The majority of the 58 counties already have data infrastructures with local area networks (LANs) equipped to handle a transmission control protocol/internet protocol (TCP/IP) connection to the State Health and Human Services Data Center (HHSDC). The TCP/IP connection allows for access to the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS), Case Management Information Payroll System (CMIPS), Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), ISAWS, and other applications. It is the preferred connection over the traditional System Network Architecture (SNA) data communication. SNA tends to have higher costs, substantially lower benefits, and is commonly associated with the older Memorex 3270 terminal and printer equipment. Some county infrastructures still rely on the SNA connection to access MEDS and CMIPS, and even though it is a proven success, we highly recommend using the TCP/IP connection for the flexibility it has to offer. Counties needing additional assistance on these technical details can call the Department's Information Technology Services Division (ITSD) number listed in Enclosure A of this document.

Site Preparation

Depending on the County's infrastructure design and the technical support available, site preparation can be relatively easy or can give the impression of being an overwhelming obstacle. A generic site preparation checklist has been included, as Enclosure B, to help with basic questions such as "where do I begin and what do I need to do next?"

Back-up System

Fortunately, the HHSDC downtime accessibility primarily to the MEDS, ISAWS, and CMIPS applications is not a common occurrence. The data center has proven to be very equipped at backing up massive amounts of information, primarily for archiving and large-scale disaster recovery purposes. In the event of a fire, earthquake, or a complete network crash, HHSDC can restore these much-needed applications and their data in a relatively short amount of time. Smaller counties with one or more SNA connections have expressed concern over losing their backup system to the MEDS and CMIPS applications after the Department removes the leased equipment and shuts down the established SNA circuits to HHSDC.

Counties that wish to maintain a separate back-up system and who want to continue using a direct line circuit connection to the data center can do so, but the initial outlay costs for a new controller, terminal, and printer will need to be absorbed by the county. If a back up system is required, please call the HHSDC Customer Relations number listed in Enclosure B.

The Department is also investigating a dial-up access solution as a county back-up system using a virtual private network (VPN). VPN is an encrypted tunneling scheme that allows the state and the county to securely transfer data between locations using the Internet. Prior to permitting this access mode however, the MEDS security requirements must first pass the Department's approval process.

Personal Computer (PCs)/Printers

PCs and printers will need to be purchased, unless the county has extra surplus equipment available to use. The work group looked into the availability of State surplus computers for accessing CMIPS and MEDS for the smaller counties under tight budget constraints. Although access to State surplus printers does not appear an option, please refer to Enclosure B for county and state contacts who can assist in obtaining PCs.

Equipment Removal Timelines

A removal schedule is included as Enclosure C to help the ISAWS counties in identifying the approximate dates the State expects to remove the leased equipment from county offices. A legend identifying the type of equipment located in the county offices is also located at the top of Enclosure C. This will assist in acknowledging the equipment counties must procure and eventually replace.

The Department extends our appreciation to the county staff who have been working with the Department's ITSD staff in coordinating the equipment removal timelines for the various site locations.

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If you need to discuss the equipment removal schedule further, please contact Mr. William Walsh, Chief, Policy Section B, at (916) 657-0062.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Richard Brantingham Acting Chief Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE A

RESOURCES: STATE AND COUNTY CONTACTS

QUESTIONS	CONTACT NAMES	PHONE #'S	E-MAIL
Do you need to acquire some surplus State PC's? (Limited Time Offer)	Louie Baron, ITSD Department of Health Services	(916) <u>657-0611</u>	Lbaron@dhs.ca.gov
Need technical assistance with printers, or otherwise?	Louie Baron, ITSD Department of Health Services	(916) 657-0611	Lbaron@dhs.ca.gov
Need to make inquiries about a back-up line for accessing MEDS and CMIPS?	Cindy Perkins, HHSDC Customer Relations Division	(916) 454-8087	Cperkins@hhsdc.ca.gov
Have an ISAWS or system support question? (Only for ISAWS counties)	John Stinhelefer Consortium Technical Support Or Donna Hillegass Consortium Technical Support	(916) 859-4947 (916) 859-4948	
County contact who may have extra PC's, if you want them?	Nancy Lindgren Tuolumne County	(229) 533-5787	nlindgren@isaws.cahwnet.gov
CMIPS questions?	Melissa Alcalde Adult Programs Systems Unit CA Department of Social Services	(916) 229-4015	Alcalde.Melissa@DSS.ca.gov

ENCLOSURE B

QUICK PC CHECK LIST June 2002

If you are going to replace a MEDS terminal with a PC based workstation here are a few things to keep in mind.

1. Make sure the location has adequate electrical power.

Your building maintenance personnel can check the power for proper voltage and proper grounding.

2. The location will require CAT5 or better data cabling.

The original MEDS equipment utilized 10base2 (aka Coax) cabling, which is not typically used on PC workstations. Your cabling contractor or network administrator can verify and test the cabling before installation.

3. You will need a free port on the hub or switch to plug the PC into.

Your network administrator or technical support person can assist in verifying port availability.

4. You will need a valid IP address for the PC.

Your network administrator, technical support person or HHSDC can assist in this process. If your county has multiple subnets, you will want to make sure that you have a free port on the subnet that matches your IP address.

PC Considerations

1. If the PC is not new it should be tested and scanned for viruses before it is attached to the state network. We recommend a new installation of the OS (operating system) and other software if possible before attaching it to the state network.

Your network administrator or technical support person can assist in this process.

The PC should have a current version of Virus scanning software installed. The virus DAT (digital audio tape) files should be updated regularly.

Your network administrator or technical support person can assist in this process.

2. The PC will need TN3270 (MEDS) client software installed.

Here is a list of companies that sell TN3270 clients, in no particular order.

Futuresoft – www.futuresoft.com

IBM – www-3.ibm.com/software/network/hostaccess/

Rumba – www.rumba.com

WRQ - www.wrq.com/products/reflection/win/ribm/

Your county may already have a 3270 emulator that they recommend. Your network administrator or technical support person can assist in selecting and installing the TN3270 client software.

Technical questions can be addressed to Louie Baron, DHS (See Enclosure A). ISAWS Counties may contact John Stinehelfer or Donna Hillegass, Consortium Technical Support.

ENCLOSURE C

Page 1

EQUIPMENT NO. LEGEND			
1174 = Controller	OPTRA = Laser Printer	1508 = Line Printer	1883E/C = Controller
1482A = Terminal	5245 = Line Printer	CG1001E01 = VTAMID	1783NCT = Controller
1330 = Dot Matrix Printer	1505 = Line Printer	1481A = Controller	1683E/C = Controller
1483V = Terminal	T1640 = Laser Printer	T614 = Controller	CODEX 3500 = DSU/CSU

<u>VTAMID</u>- THE ADDRESS OF THE DEVICE. A MAINFRAME VERSION OF AN IP ADDRESS.

<u>DSU/CSU</u>- A MODEM (MODULATOR/DEMODULATOR) TO CHANGE SIGNALS FROM ANALOG TO DIGITAL AND BACK AGAIN.

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	1174	695 Oleander Avenue	7/11/02
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